



**1095<sup>th</sup> meeting of the  
Pacific Coast Numismatic Society**  
7:30PM Wednesday July 25, 2007  
Room 370, Building C, Fort Mason  
San Francisco, California



## **Coinage of the English Revolution**

*Elliot Wehner*

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Please join us Wednesday July 25, 2007 to hear Elliot Wehner tell us about the coinage and adventures of King Charles I and his rival, Oliver Cromwell.

### **June Banquet**

The annual banquet was held at the Golden Mirror Restaurant in San Francisco on June 23. I was unable to attend but I heard that good times and food was had by all.

### **1093<sup>rd</sup> meeting. May 23, 2007 Collecting Conder Tokens**

*Michael Wehner*

Michael gave a powerpoint presentation about the token coinage used in Britain during the period 1789-1795. Often called "Conder Tokens" in the US after an early cataloger, these tokens were made in a response to a shortage of low denomination, minor coinage. This period of time was the beginnings of the Industrial Revolution in Britain and experienced major changes in the society. As factories began to offer a higher standard of living than a subsistence agricultural life, people moved from the farms into town. These new workers needed to be paid but the Royal Mint was producing only silver and gold coinage at that time. Private enterprise filled the need with a plethora of copper tokens in farthing, halfpence and penny denominations. This continued until the government realized how much money it was not making and declared private tokens illegal. However, the Royal Mint was still ill-equipped to satisfy demand so a contract was awarded to Mathew Boulton's Soho Mint in Birmingham. Boulton and his partner James Watt were the first to apply the steam engine to the minting of coins and can be considered the inventors of the modern mechanized minting process.



The large number of Conder tokens presents many collecting opportunities. The first issues were by the Parys Mining Company in Anglesey, Wales to pay their workers. Shortly thereafter, it was widely realized that a handsome profit could be made in addition to filling a need. Tokens were issued by private businesses, municipalities and individuals. Some promote a local industry, such as the woolen trade or canal shipping. Some promote specific businesses, such as a fruit tree seller, an auction house or a bookseller. Others promote ideas, especially about politics. Some tokens were royalist in nature, but many promoted the “Rights of Man” or similar feelings of rebellion against the status quo. The most prolific of these token issuers was James Spence who designed hundreds of different varieties, many with symbols of people triumphing over the Royalty.



The Parys Mine Co. Token



An Oxford book dealer token



A political token from Thomas Spence reading “A snail may put his horns out”. What did he mean by this?

### **Future presentations:**

October 2007: Steve Huston: TBA

Please contact Michael Wehner at mf\_wehner@yahoo.com or at 415 928 4469 if you would like to make a presentation

### **Important announcement!**

The new starting time for the regular portion of the meeting will be 7:30PM. This is thirty minutes earlier than we have had in the past. Under the new procedures, the board meeting will end at precisely 7:30 and the regular meeting will begin. The intent of this change is to let members, especially those with long drives, get home a bit earlier.

Also, be sure to check the board on the ground floor near the elevator in Building C. The announced room is subject to change by Fort Mason management.

### **May SHOW & TELL**

Whalen exhibited an assortment on early 1980's mint products. Lew Robinson brought a \$100 Canadian proof gold piece celebrating Queen Elizabeth II 25<sup>th</sup> Jubilee.

Federico Castillo brought a book about Costa Rican tokens!

Jerry Schimmel showed a binder full of San Francisco ephemera. Elliot Wehner showed off a Charles I half crown that he received for his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Michael Wehner exhibited his collection of 18<sup>th</sup> century British provincial tokens.